

5-4839

22 April 1954

The Honorable Walter B. Smith
Acting Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear Bedell:

I found the attached letter from
Walter Lippmann of interest and am passing
the substance of it on to Foster as he told me
that he had been quite interested in Lippmann's
article of April 19.

Sincerely yours,

Allen W. Dulles
Director

Encl.

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CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C 2011
NEXT REVIEW DATE:
AUTH: HR 70-2
DATE: 290381 REVIEWER:

25X1

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Approved For Release 2003/07/01 : CIA-RDP80R01731R000900120050-9

New York
HERALD TRIBUNE

April 20, 1954

Dear Allen:

This is for your information: the Indian Ambassador telephoned me Monday afternoon, saying he would like to come and see me today. I told him that I would be glad to go to see him, and I have just been there for tea.

The occasion for his call was my article on Monday, called "The Dulles Trip and Indo-China", and he was, of course, particularly interested in the suggestion at the end that the proposed pact might become a means of protecting the independence of the Indo-Chinese states and that it was to be hoped that India would not shut the door against such a possibility. (Incidentally, Foster telephoned me Monday evening, saying that he liked the article as a whole and that it reflected what he had in mind).

When I saw the Ambassador today he asked me to tell him what I was suggesting. I put it to him this way: that while the Indo-Chinese states are entitled to independence, they are and will be incapable of exercising full independence for a considerable time to come. They are, and he agreed, unready for self-government. Therefore, independence as such must create a political vacuum which would promptly be filled by the communist dictatorship. That being the situation, the problem is to create a political protectorate of some sort within which the newly emancipated Indo-Chinese states could learn to use their independence. Such a protectorate, once the French withdraw, cannot be created by any Western power alone, and therefore unless the independent nations of Asia take the lead in creating that protectorate, Indo-China will either fall within the communist orbit or become the battleground of a great war.

He agreed with this and then proceeded to tell me that substantially the same idea was in the mind of his government and that he expected a proposal of some sort to come from the forthcoming

meeting at Colombo on April 28th, at which there will be present the Prime Ministers of India, Pakistan, Burma, Ceylon and Indonesia. This conference has been called by the Prime Minister of Ceylon.

I assume from this that we shall see discussed at Geneva three Asian pacts: one from the communists modeled on Molotov's pact for Europe, our own proposed pact, and a third Asian pact.

The new information in all this, as far as I am concerned, was the probable action at Colombo.

Yours,

/s/ Walter Lippmann

Mr. Allen Dulles
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